

Enoch Pratt Free Library Centennial 1986 MS 15.1.3

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections

<http://www.prattlibrary.org/>

400 Cathedral Street

Baltimore, MD, 21201

443-984-2451

spc@prattlibrary.org

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Summary Information

Repository	Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
Creator	Enoch Pratt Archives.
Creator	Enoch Pratt Free Library.
Creator	The Steiner Family
Title	Enoch Pratt Free Library Centennial 1986
Date	January 5, 1886-January 5, 1986
Extent	4.0 Linear feet 2 boxes
Language	English

Biographical/Historical note

In early 1882, Enoch Pratt offered the gift of a central library as well as four branch libraries and an endowment of \$1,058,333.00 to the City of Baltimore. The City of Baltimore accepted and citizens showed their approval in a vote on October 25, 1882. Lewis H. Steiner was appointed as the first Librarian/Director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in November 1884. On January 5, 1886, the Central Library was opened on Mulberry Street, with four more branches opening in the following three months. By 1894, the Pratt Library had established itself as a vital Baltimore institution with one of the largest book collections and highest circulation rates among public libraries in the United States.

In 1926, Joseph L. Wheeler was appointed Director and replaced Bernard C. Steiner, who had succeeded his father, Lewis H. Steiner. Wheeler oversaw many changes to the Pratt Library, including the construction of a new Central Library building that would accommodate the library's expanding collection. The new Central Library building was funded by a loan of \$3 million, which was approved by the citizens of Baltimore in an almost 3 to 1 margin vote. The old Central Library building was razed and construction on the new building began in 1931. The Pratt Library temporarily moved its operations to Redwood Street and Hopkins Place, where the First Mariner Arena now stands, from 1930 until the new Central Library building was completed in February 1933. The new building became a stunning example of a Beaux-Arts public library that was designed to be open, efficient and welcoming to patrons. In 1941, Wheeler co-authored *The American Public Library Building: Its Planning and Design with Special Reference to Its Administration and Service* with architect Morton Githens.

The Pratt Library formed specialized subject departments before occupying the new building:

Education, Philosophy, and Religion Civics and Sociology Business and Economics Industry and Science (formerly "Technology") General Reference (later called General Information Department) History, Travel, and Biography Literature Popular Library (later called Fiction)

In 1932, the Pratt Library began providing services specifically for young adults, hiring Margaret Alexander (later Margaret A. Edwards). In 1943, the Library began a horse-drawn book wagon service, and during World War II, the Pratt Library's goal was to "make books more useful to win the war." Between 1942 and 1956, the noted Baltimore author, H. L. Mencken, deposited his scrapbooks and papers at the Pratt Library.

The Pratt library Directors, who succeeded Joseph Wheeler, are noted for their service to the people of Baltimore and the State of Maryland. They include:

Emerson Greenaway, 1946-1951 Amy Winslow, 1951-1957, the first female Director Arthur H. Parsons, 1957-1960 Edwin Castagna, 1960-1974 Ernest Siegel, 1974-1981 Anna Curry, 1981-1993, the first African-American Director Carla D. Hayden, Ph. D., 1993-2016, became the first African-American Librarian of Congress

In 2016, a complete renovation of the Central Enoch Pratt Free Library has begun. The purpose of the renovation project is to preserve the past and position the Central Library/State Library Resource Center to serve Marylanders in the future. The Central Library will remain open throughout the construction.

Scope and Contents note

This collection contains the records and events produced during the 1986 Centennial celebration of Enoch Pratt Free Library. Anna Curry (1981-1993) was the director during the Centennial Celebration.

Arrangement note

The series include the following:

I. Preparatory Material II. Centennial Events III. Committees IV. Milestones

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections

Revision Description

Entered into Archivist's Toolkit by Joan M. Wolk. December, 2016

Conditions Governing Access note

Unrestricted, open by appointment.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Banners
- Ephemera
- Memoranda
- Memorandums
- Memos
- minutes (administrative records)
- Photographs
- Slogans
- testimonials

Personal Name(s)

- Curry, Anna

Subject(s)

- Budget
- committees
- milestones
- symposium (conference)

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Series I: Preparatory Material	1	1-12
	Box	Folder
Centennial Banners	1	1
Blue Ribbon Committees	1	2
Calendar	1	3
Budget I	1	4
Budget II	1	5
Budget III	1	6
Information Sheet	1	7
Memos to Staff and from Staff	1	8
Correspondence I	1	9
Correspondence II	1	10

Correspondence III	1	11
Names for Mailing Lists	1	12
Series 2: Centennial Events	1	13-21
	Box	Folder
Opening Day Ceremony I	1	13
Opening Day Ceremony II	1	14
Anniversary Celebrations in other Institutions	1	15
Enoch Pratt Resource Material I	1	16
Enoch Pratt Resource Material II	1	17
SLRC Reception – Central Renovation	1	18
Slogans	1	19
Symposium	1	20
Minutes	1	21
Series 3: Testimonials	2	22-46
	Box	Folder

Testimonials – General	2	22
Testimonials – Public	2	23
Testimonials – Kate Copland & Thurson Taylor	2	24
Testimonials – Staff I	2	25
Testimonials – Staff II	2	26
Testimonials – Staff – Original & Duplicates	2	27
Series 4: Committees	2	28-44
	Box	Folder
Committee – Audio-Visual	2	28
Committee – Author – Speaker	2	29
Committee – Black History Month	2	30
Committee – Book Sale	2	31
Committee – Canton Center	2	32
Committee – Children’s Birthday Party, etc	2	33

Committee – Charges and Committee members	2	34
Committee – Exhibits	2	35
Committee – Gala in Central Hall	2	36
Committee – General	2	37
Committee – Mencken Day	2	38
Committee – Publications	2	39
Committee - Registration Drive	2	40
Committee - Staff Events and Exhibits	2	41
Committee - Street Festival and Artscape	2	42
Committee – Tours and Open House	2	43
Committee – Young Adult	2	44
Series 5: Milestones	2	45-46
	Box	Folder
Invitation to Centennial Bash, 1986	2	45

Seventy-fifth Anniversary, 1961

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